Message Text

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SUBJECT: COMMISSIONER USTINOV'S STATEMENT AT MARCH 23, 1978 PLENARY MEETING (SCC-XIII-007)

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF COMMISSIONER USTINOV'S STATEMENT AT FIRST PLENARY MEETING OF SCC-XIII, MARCH 23, 1978. BEGIN TEXT:

MR. COMMISSIONER.

TODAY AT THIS FIRST MEETING WE WOULD LIKE TO SET FORTH OUR OVERALL POSITION ON SEVERAL QUESTIONS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THIS SESSION.

IN OUR OPINION THE CHIEF TASK OF THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE STANDING CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION MUST BE, IF POSSIBLE, TO FINISH WORKING OUT THE AGREED STATEMENT REGARDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF ARTICLES II, IV, AND VI OF THE ABM TREATY, AND THE UTILIZATION OF AIR DEFENSE RADARS AT THE TEST RANGES REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE IV OF THAT TREATY.

IF NECESSARY WE CAN ALSO DISCUSS QUESTIONS PERTAINING SECRET

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TO COMPLIANCE BY THE SIDES WITH OBLIGATIONS ASSUMED UNDER THE AGREEMENTS ON THE LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC ARMS CONCLUDED BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE U.S.

IT SEEMS TO US, THAT IN CONSIDERING QUESTIONS
INVOLVED IN WORKING OUT FORMULATIONS AND INDIVIDUAL
PROVISIONS OF THE AGREED STATEMENT WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN

AGREED PREVIOUSLY, EACH SIDE MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE AGREED PROVISIONS OF THE JOINT SOVIET-U.S. DRAFT TEXT OF THAT STATEMENT OF NOVEMBER 21, 1977 AND USE THEM AS A BASIS FOR ITS WORK. IN THIS CONNECTION IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT WITH RESPECT TO THE QUESTIONS UNDER DISCUSSION, AREAS WHERE THE VIEWS OF THE SIDES COINCIDE AND WHERE THEY DIFFER HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AT PREVIOUS SESSIONS. WE BELIEVE THAT A POSITIVE RESULT OF THE PREVIOUS SESSIONS IS THAT, IN ESSENCE, THE SIDES ALREADY ARE AGREED WITH RESPECT TO THE TEST RANGES REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE IV OF THE ABM TREATY.

AS FOR APPLICATION OF THE TERM "TESTED IN AN ABM MODE" WE CAN STATE THAT THE APPROACHES OF THE SIDES, AS RECORDED IN THE JOINT DRAFT TEXT OF THE AGREED STATEMENT, ALSO CONTAIN SOME COMMON ELEMENTS WHICH, IN OUR VIEW, SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TO ACHIEVING COMPLETE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

WITH RESPECT TO UTILIZATION OF AIR DEFENSE RADARS AT THE TEST RANGES REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE IV OF THE ABM TREATY, WE NOTE THAT BOTH SIDES ARE AGREED ON THE MAIN THING, NAMELY THAT SUCH RADARS CANNOT AND MUST NOT BE TESTED IN AN ABM MODE REGARDLESS OF THE FUNCTION THEY PERFORM.

JUST AS AT PAST SESSIONS WE ARE PREPARED TO WORK IN A SECRET

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BUSINESSLIKE AND CONSTRUCTIVE FASHION, IN A SPIRIT OF FRANKNESS, SEARCHING FOR SOLUTIONS ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES. WE HOPE THAT THE U.S. SIDE, TOO, IS PREPARED TO WORK IN THIS FASHION. NO DOUBT SUCH A JOINT DESIRE WOULD FACILITATE BETTER MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND ACCOMPLISHMENT BY THE COMMISSION OF THE TASKS PUT BEFORE IT. ONLY THIS WAY WILL WE BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS ALONG THAT ROAD.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION. END TEXT. BUCHHEIM

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